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Diane Dunn McKay

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Application of :
Okazaki, K. et al. :
 :
Serial No. 09/705,661 :
 :
Filed: November 3, 2000 :
 :
For: METHOD FOR PRODUCTION :
OF ACRYLIC ACID AND :
APPARATUS FOR PRODUCTION :
OF ACRYLIC ACID :

Group Art Unit: 1623
Examiner: Fisher, Latonia M.

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In a September 27, 2002 Office Action, the Examiner required restriction to one of the following groups:

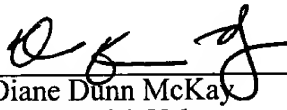
- I. Claims 1-7 are drawn to methods for producing acrylic acid and acrolein, classified in class 562, subclass 532.
- II. Claims 8-10 are drawn to apparatus for producing acrylic acid or acrolein, classified in class 422, subclass 129.

Applicants hereby elect with traverse Group II, claims 8-10 for prosecution in this application. Applicants submit that a search of the apparatus for producing acrylic acid would uncover the methods for producing acrylic acid of Group I. Applicants

respectfully request the right to file a divisional application directed to the unelected claims.

A prompt action on the merits is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned should she believe this would expedite prosecution of this application. It is believed no fee is required. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2165.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Dunn McKay
Reg. No. 34,586
Attorney for Applicant(s)

DATE: October 7, 2002

MATHEWS, COLLINS, SHEPHERD & McKAY, P.A.
100 Thanet Circle, Suite 306
Princeton, New Jersey 08540-3662
Telephone: (609) 924-8555
Telecopier: (609) 924-3036